

pg. 2 Fagot Gatherer - 17.50
Old Shepherd - 17.50

Santons BRU
With DOCTOR pg 6

DOLL TALK

FOR
COLLECTORS

Volume 12, Number 7

July - August, 1958

SANTONS OF PROVENCE



Provence, the mountainous section in the south of France, has always struggled to maintain a precarious and often nominal independence necessary to sooth the deep rooted spirit of individuality inherent in the hearts of its people. This same trait has shown up not only in their politics, but in their art, literature and even their Provencal speech which differs considerably from other Romance languages.

Kimport first came into contact with another skill, proudly claimed as unique to certain craftsmen of this area, in the December 1957 issue of "Spinning Wheel" magazine. This interesting article on Santons of Provence by Alex Potter, introduced us to a wonderful series of terra-cotta dolls, costumed in traditional styles, made for creche

and home decoration. 'Seems that some early Provencal artist had the idea that everyone had a right to see the Baby Jesus, so local creche sets were made with not only the traditional figures, but local images, such as fishermen, faggot gatherers, millers, farmers, flower sellers and all. Many people have made specialized collections of these wonderfully life-like figures and particularly in France they have become smartly popular decorative items.

After reading about such fascinating dolls, we made an effort to find a source that would enable us to offer these fine collection pieces to you. The four unusual character dolls pictured are the results of our efforts. Made and hand signed by Rhul, one of the best known Provencal Santoniers, these four

old folk are modeled and costumed in the classic style originated in the early 1800's. No two dolls are exactly alike, but all are eight-inch masterpieces, nicely blending new and antique materials in their peasant attire.

The faggot gatherer, No. 509A, is a white haired, wrinkle faced old peasant, stooped beneath a heavy load of branches, bundled in her shawl. Her costume is plain but heavy as befits her position.

The old shepherd, No. 509B, is a white bearded mountaineer whose eyes peer out brightly from beneath his broad brimmed slouch hat. He carries a lamb under one arm, sheltered by his flowing cloak, and supports himself with a crooked staff.

The fishmonger, No. 509C, is a gamin faced old woman who hawks her wares, carrying a basket of fish on one arm and tiny brass scales over the other. Neatly dressed with a wisp of lace covering her gray hair, she stands sturdily on her individual clay base which is always one characteristic of the true Santon.

The fisherman, No. 509D, has a strong, mature, whiskered face. He wears a tasseled cap, red striped jersey and knee length trousers with fish net slung over one shoulder. Bare feet spread wide and arms akimbo, this cocky sea dog presents a jaunty picture.

All of these unusual dolls are identically priced at \$17.50 each, and our opinion is that no collection of character types is complete without one or a group. Stock is limited. More will not be available until spring as it seems Santons are made only at that time.

QUOTE-QUOTE

Alice Winchell writes from California in compliment of the Primer stories and oh, s'me other pleasantries. We liked, too, Mrs. Winchell's quote from *De Gour Mont-Fortune* magazine — "The little girl expects no declaration of tenderness from her doll. She loves it, and that's all. It is thus that we should love."

"One of our Christmas dolls from 'Boston House', later, Woodward and Lothrop's in Washington, D. C., was the bisque headed infant some call 'Kaiser Baby' or perhaps 'Baby Otto'; five pointed star between K & R. I know that no matter what he is dubbed now that for Christmas of the year 1910, he was widely advertised as the first 'CHARACTER DOLL'."

"DOGGONE!"

Maybe it isn't fair to print compliments to Kimport, and complaints on the doggy, all in the same item, but that's what our good friend Malby Clark wrote us. "What nice people you are to answer so promptly, always,—it makes one feel 'pampered'. Have made a list; it could be twice as long. I'm trying to collect at least one doll of each outstanding doll-maker as far back as I know. . . . My jealous little dog doesn't like my dolls or anything connected with them. She has ruined a French dress, shoes and other items,—I hate to think how many! I thought it safe to leave my first want list you sent to me on the table; however, she must be smart enough to read as she got it and tore it to shreds! Maybe just intuition!"

NEW CHAPTER ON PITCAIRN ISLAND

A recent feature of "Life" and an article in the December, 1957 "Geographic" have revived attention to the Pitcairn Islands, the "Mutiny on the Bounty" and the thrilling story of the Islanders of the far South Pacific. Of course Kimport has never lost interest in the family of Fletcher Christian because we have been bringing dolls from Marion Christian for our collectors since 1942.

Miss Ruth Whittier of New Hampshire, a helpful friend of Kimport, renewed acquaintance at the San Francisco convention, and has just written us another chapter on Pitcairn and its people:

"You may recall that back in 1942 when you first acquired some dolls from Pitcairn Island, I wrote you about how I was no doubt responsible for the folks on the island carving the dolls. Through a friend, then in correspondence with Mrs. Lucy Christian, they were persuaded to carve a doll for me; and one for my friend.

"I believe you will be interested that a life-long dream of my friend, Blanche Walker, is about to come to life. She is going to visit her many friends on the Islands for six months. She will be seeing the doll makers and says she'll thank them for giving us such nice ones.

"To me, this trip to Pitcairn, to visit with the people who have become her friends over the years by correspondence, is much more ex-

citing and more worth while than any trip out into space to visit the moon or some planet which is probably not even inhabited, and where nothing even remotely resembling a doll could be found!"



With this story before us, we just rechecked our current stock of "Maimiti" the Pitcairn woman doll, and find six of them available. They are made of pale-colored, light weight "boo-ron" wood, and have carved hair in an odd, bonnet-like roll that reminds one of the Seminole Indian head-dress. Limbs are nailed on, and each rather flat faced "beauty" is clad in one garment, a dress of gaudy stuff, selected by some crew to please their Island customers. Size is about 8 inches. No. 297 Maimiti, \$4.95.

LATE ARRIVALS

Over twenty years ago, Arthur and Ruby McKim were first contacting far flung foreign sources in an effort to get an unlikely sounding business, "Kimport Dolls," under way. The first affirmative response they received was from The Near East Industries in Athens, which provided a line of fine handcrafted Balkan types. These remained prime favorites in the Kimport line until those dark days in 1940 when Hitler's legions spread like a blight across the face of Europe and the unavailability of foreign dolls was the least of worries for all of us loyal Americans faced with a long and tragic war.



After the war, starving and long suffering Greece struggled to regain her feet, and with the help of the CARE organization, they have again sent beautiful handcraft in part payment for goods obtained from us. We are pleased to offer one of the most elaborately dressed dolls, a sturdy 10 inch peasant lass from the Saraksatanis district. An all hand-made cloth doll, handsomely costumed in hand-woven crash and black, all decked with tiny red cross-stitch. Her face with large, dark eyes is prettily painted and modeled. No. 853S, \$9.95.

The other Greek we selected was classic "Amalia," a revered queen, in her picturesque full skirt, topped with a velvet bolero and disc of a long tasseled cap.



Again there is a wealth of hand-work trimming on the same basic doll, beautifully finished from silken floss hair to the weighted feet which assures proud, unassisted standing position. Greek Queen is No. 853A, \$9.95.



A must for any collector who insists on class and character is our new duo of Danish dolls, the workmanship of one of Denmark's finest doll artists. Their most striking feature is the wonderfully lifelike heads sculpted in some hard composition and skillfully hand painted. The elderly, white haired Postman with letter in hand, wears a benevolent expression that belies his very official uniform of black billed hat with royal emblem, red coat with brass buttons, black trousers and shoes. Eight Inch Royal Postman, No. 951, \$12.50.

The matching woman has such a merry, laughing face that one instinctively smiles along with her! She is a fish vendor, holding a large sample of her wares aloft in one hand. For such a buxom, middle aged fishwife, she still shows

a frivolous touch by the bright red edging on her olive green skirt. The remainder of her costume consists of brown bodice, pink and white checked apron, white headscarf and lace edged pantaloons. She is No. 951A, \$13.00.



From Austria comes a pair of 5 inch folk dancers, made for Kimport by Viktoria Adlersberg of Vienna. These cunning children are inseparably joined by a candy striped, ring shaped base and both are neatly and colorfully costumed in authentic dress of the Osttirol district. She wears a blue polka dot dress with matching beehive bonnet, white blouse with red and green bodice, while he sports brown knee length breeches, striped shirt, blue coat and huge, floppy, double brimmed hat. No. 209, priced just \$4.95 for the pair.

Jan, No. 300, and Mieke, No. 300A, are five inch, lathe turned wooden children from Holland, dressed in Volendam costume. Both have quaintly painted faces with yellow yarn hair. Jan wears round

black cap, baggy trousers and yellow wooden shoes; Micke is demurely dressed in white winged cap, print blouse and striped apron. Just \$1.95 each.



Trouble torn Indonesia sends terrifying but humorous fiber devil dancers, nine inches tall, with raffia wrapped bodies and carved mask-like faces. These Balinese "witches" come in a variety of styles, but all are mounted on wooden bases. No. 560C, \$1.95.

Ceylon, being an island, its people garner much of their food from the sea. Yet their exotic tastes in color costumes prevail among the fishermen against the drabness of their wet labors. The men have long tightly wrapped skirts of the brightest colors while they wear knitted round hats and scarfs also

of rainbow hues. The dolls themselves are tall, nine inch fellows, all of some dark tropic wood, the features sharply carved and the arms jointed at the shoulders. Each carries a woven bag for his fish and a slender pole for the catching. No. 650C, \$7.50.

VIA DIPLOMATIC POUCH

"Doll Talk" follows the Army and Navy and Diplomatic Corps around the world. At least a select few collectors keep up on their doll news that way. Kind of cheerful to think that our gentle little magazine travels under the same seal as state secrets! More-over, good friends, like Mrs. Myrtle M. Hyde share news of foreign dolls with us. She writes:

"Only a short time ago if we had ever thought of coming to this part of the world, it was only dreaming, but it has become a reality about Alexander, Tamerlane, Ghengis Kahn, the Kyber Pass and such. There are some dolls here, but not made in quantity and difficult to ship out of the country. The women in Afghanistan still are completely covered with their chadaries which they start wearing at age thirteen. They are not seen even in public places, but occasionally come out to its bazaars to shop. This is a man's country. Men are seen in droves everywhere, milling around together. They go to the cinema together, visit the tea houses together and are seen only in the company of men." What a world!

ROGER!

With a twelve year old lad who is certainly not headed down "Delinquency Drive," Kimport connived in the most delightful deception!

Roger wrote — "I am Roger, Mrs. Amis' son. My mom got a letter from you about a doll. Please save it for her and I will send you the money myself, for my mom. You see, my dad was in an auto accident and at the same time my mom had 'pnewmonya,' and then she got these measles, too. The doctor said that I must have given them to my mom from school, but I did not have them. She has been very sick. The measles has done something to her eyes and she cannot write plain. I told her I would write you and tell you to save the doll for her, but she does not know that I want to get it for her for Decoration Day, for that will be the day she can get up for the first time in almost two months. My dad is home from the hospital now and I am very glad because he is back home and now we are all together again. Thank you for your nice letter."

THEM 'N THEIR TEA!

In the doll collection of Miss Virginia Church, a Kansas co-ed, there is one certainly different miniature, secured through a Canadian friend. It is a hollow little pillar type called the Teacup doll. The story is that a "doll-full" of water was poured into the top of its head, then stood in one's egg-shell china cup to keep the hot tea from cracking the fragile china. W'at, no "milk"!

Kimport Doll Show Will Again Be In SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF. Sept. 8th to 13th

These big doll exhibits in the Art Needlework Department, Fourth Floor of the Emporium have been repeated so many years that the event is a tradition on the West Coast. Collectors, not only from the Bay Area but from many miles away, mark this show on their calendar as a must!

Naturally Kimport puts a best foot forward, and brings its choicest dolls and widest variety. This year there are many new foreign lines, colorful, exactly the right cabinet size and reasonably priced... There are antiques in reach of a beginner's purse and others by which the most experienced collectors will be impressed... In a display valued at well over \$5,000.00 you'll surely see something that you can't resist!

Please tell your friends and be sure to come yourself.

RUBY SHORT McKIM
WILL WELCOME YOU.

ANOTHER DROPPED PEBBLE

Ida McCullough, back in Pennsylvania manages a Home of Aged Folk. "Oftimes, we have a group of Brownies or Girl Scouts who give a program and recently, one little girl brought about six dolls. When the youngsters saw my collection, there were Oh's and Ah's — and especially the one child was so interested that I would like to send her a subscription of Doll Talk."



Perusing the pages of United Federation's last issue of "Doll News," May 1958, we were delighted with their selection of classifications for thirty-one specific exhibit groups. These, with their numerous subheads (2½ pages) surprisingly well cover the field. And what a field it is! It whets the Kimport ambition to keep on offering prize winner material to fit every single category. This time we will key our "Speaking"—to quite a few.

"Class 1, Woodens, A. Queen Anne" — and the only thing now here that definitely dates back to around 1700 is a torso only, one that had belonged to a little private museum, "Harrogate" in England. Twelve and a half inches tall, we think it one of the rare male Queen Annes, because the hips do not round 'way out to simulate the farthingale, and the chest not so fully rounded as on others that have passed our way. At arm pits are the remains of heavy old leather nailed into the oak; porcelain eyes in good condition, but little else to suggest the plaster overlay and paint that once covered the face and chest. Homely, but still a remarkable collector item. If somebody had the heart to properly re-do him, the blue blood ancestry is all there, but we offer him, as is, without so much as a brush stroke. No. A414, price, \$150.00.

Federation's "A 1" under Woodens is the Georgian period, and "A

2," other 17th, 18th or earlier. Kimport presently has several, but how about a 3¼ inch peg jointed soldier in the most splendid Colonial uniform, all original and amazingly perfect from tricorn hat to wooden toes. Dozens of gold buttons (tiny beads) with looped gilt buttonholes trim his rose lined bottle green coat. Huge and ornate pockets, linen wrap leggings, button trimmed, a buckled belt and white sashes with black cartridge box on one hip, all amazing in such small scale. We date him as at least representing some British regiment before 1742 at which date the rather wide tricorn was supplanted by the tall Grenadier hat—the better to swing a grenade, my dear, without knocking one's own hat awry! No. A834, \$47.50.

By the gabby procedure with which we go about "Speaking of Antiques," you can well see it would take several complete Doll Talks for us to go into the some sixty listed classifications in Federation's May Doll News, but we could now list available Woodens in all seven sub-divisions.

Class 2—lists five groupings under Wax. Wax dolls, shunned by some, have certainly suffered no more casualties than china, bisque, etc. Proudly we offer "(A) Waxes that date 1825 or earlier," a six inch pair of wax headed cricket players with beady black eyes and wispy wool hair. One cherry-red one green, original old wool suits have met moths and lost, but shiney black postillion hats w'it, gilt bands and upstanding pink feather are still swankily impressive. Each holds a bat in his leather right hand, and one still

swings up when a string is pulled. Wooden legs evidently once fitted into a base. As is, No. A355, \$45.00 for the pair.

"(B) Wire eyed wax," not now one that still works, so no blue ribbon material there. However, big old (29", circa 1825) Hannah, whose misty blue eyes have been set is an antique of dignity. Ample gray hair from a slit top head may once have been yellow; some age cracks and rejuvenation scars in her pale petal wax complexion; leather arms and original cambric body with red Morocco slippers that look all of 125 years old also. White mull and tarleton garments are old but somewhat re-done and still becoming to this quaint, rather dish faced old doll, No. A450, \$40.00.

"(C)" — and here is a Gibsonesque lady with solid or poured wax head. She is rather long faced with deep shoulders and slender throat; long, elliptical eyes are gray-blue inset, and inset, too, is her elaborately coiled blond hair. Beautifully shaped ears with little jet earrings, all definitely adult on this 18 inch cloth bodied doll. The 5 inch head is all in excellent condition; composition arms are doubtless original but poor. Delightfully styled gown was a masterpiece of flounces and pleating and over-drape below red velvet basque—circa 1870's, and these clothes, although far from pristine, may well be considered preferable to new. No. A792, \$85.00.

One more, please, before we leave waxes, because 25 inch Miss Felicity is one of the most charming old (1880) pumpkin heads—nice price, too. Her 6½ inch head is in

splendid condition, big brown pupil-less eyes; nose that makes for a good profile has "sculpted out" nostrils, too; earrings in proper lobe holes, wax complexion very pretty. Pale, blond (wax) hair is styled like a double pompadour front view, then from the back you see where black (wax) ribbons come from under this puff to center in a bow at the crown of her head, with quite long streamers. Original stuffed body, one composition wrist mended; lovely old clothes, red leather slippers, and a truly tailored house coat, fully lined and braid trimmed. No. A793, \$55.00.

Class No. 3 says "Case Dolls, Antique, enclosed in original case." For this we have a very old treasure, wax headed pair of Manchu aristocracy in all their original Chinese finery. Fantastic head-gears, robes of silk and satin trimmed with braids, pom-poms and tassels as well as many tiny pewter edged circles of mirror glass. Lady with bound feet, gentleman on thick soled clogs are 10 inches tall. Rectangular case is 10 x 11½ and 4¼ inches deep; lined with early pattern wallpaper, pink to rose geometric patterning on pale lemon yellow, all edged with strange silk braid; no front glass. Pair in case; probable circa 1800, No. A450, \$65.00.

Under the nine divisions of Class 4, "Papier-Maches," we either do have or have had all of those delightful composition types. Kimport Greiners had been hoarded and all listed in last Doll Talk for one big splurge.

But here is one "so-called Milliners Model" that is such an aristo-

crat, poised and serene from her severely styled black hair to the flat soles of her 1830 carved feet. Height, 13½ inches; head alone has such deep shoulders that it is 3¼ inches high with hair style straight down from a very high center peak, then puffing out to gather into a huge bun that stands out from the entire back of her all papier-mache head. Slim, hand-sewn leather body, wooden limbs of course, all original. She did need proper clothes, so R. S. M. (Mrs. McKim) attended to that personally, using proper silks, etc., for the long trained Empire gown. We think you'd approve. No. A538, Spec. \$68.00.

In the many ceramic classifications, we just must make room for, first, a couple of really rare chin-*as*. One is a head only and it may well be THE only from the collection of the late Mrs. William Massey Blackburne of Philadelphia. She was one of the earliest, serious, doll collectors, has been dead a number of years, but back from about 1910 to sometime in the twenties, she went to Europe every year with Mr. Blackburne on business, and her business was collecting dolls while he was busy! This head was a model perhaps never put into production. It has not been painted — just the white over-glaze; 4 inches high and 3 across the shoulders; modeled with sort of a windblown swirl of short hair; very pretty face; a locket and chain around the neck and then an open throated blouse or neckline that folds back quite different on the two sides, with a rolled back collar effect. It is really nothing to make up into a doll, but defi-

nately a collector item the way it is. No. AB120, \$27.50.

The other china is a large (27 inch) old darling having a home-made body with leather arms and a wonderful "covered wagon" or 1840 style head with that sleek, smooth top severely styled down from a white line center part. There are eleven plump, vertical curls; six holes for sewing on the 6½ inch high head, lovely pink line and tiny circle painting as well as black shadow lines accenting her deep blue eyes, and a suggestion of parting between the pink coral pink lips. Cheeks delicately shade into the Chelsea pink complexion tint, all perfect. Head alone is worth her price, but she has kept intact old green leather shoes and finely hand embroidered undergarments; no dress though. No. A799, \$115.00.

The new classification "parian-bisque," seems progressive and needed—for instance, 16 inch "Drucilla," whose texture is soapy smooth and whose modeling, even the eyelids and dimple on her upper lip are as artistically sharp as on any parian. Being of pale flesh tint though, she would lately have been classed as "French bisque with modeled hair"—and then must all French bisques be French in origin? We have thought not, but also we have refunded for such complaisance! So — Drucilla, circa 1868, is a true blond with both ringlet and soft vertical curls; old leather arms and cambric body with small waist and large hips. China silk dress is made with fitted basque and tiered skirt trimmed with fine old black Alencon lace. Nice! No. A800, \$100.00.

"Ladies — so-called French Fashion" and as this is penned there are five, in the 15 inch size range visiting together on our showroom shelves and vying for top fashion honors—"Eeny, meeny" and how about brown eyed Florence instead of Miney-mo, in her fancy gown of old silver gray taffeta and purple silk satin? She is 16 inches tall, swivel neck on deep bisque shoulders, silver filagree earrings in her pierced ears; replacement wig of human hair is gold color and of Parisian make. Original kid body is adultly fashioned, of course; leather hands have separately wired fingers and, sorry, not original old shoes over the finely ribbed stockings. Florence? — 'stamped so on a petticoat. Dark brown eyes are the three part blown kind, and by the way, of those other four Ladies from Par-ee, the eyes are, cobalt blue, turquoise blue, gray and green—real variety! Rather matronly, Mme. Florence is No. A802, \$127.50.

"French Child Dolls"—usually the bisque heads with child-like features were on jointed bodies of composition and wood, although we have had little girl Brus on kid, and a sophisticated lady on all wood, articulated body. Please don't demand delivery on these as of now, as they're strictly "Waiting List." But put aside for this D.T. is one 19 inch tall girl child with sleeping blue eyes, pierced ears, six little bisque teeth modeled right into the top lip curve; brown real curls on cork — this 4½ inch head marked in red, "Tete Jumeau" and body, "Bebe Jumeau Diplome Honore"; two beaded string pulls from her body "sound

off" — but nothing intelligent! All perfect, lovely swivel hands, nice old frock and undies are doubtless original. No. A773, \$130.00.

Now a few, off of Federation's suggestions and also down in price, Original old Shirley Temples—all four marked and with original curly wigs (not new saran!) sleeping eyes with lashes.

Eighteen inch darling, dimpled head and wig; body perfect except looks like one mended foot. Trade-marked S.T. Oriental pajamas—No. A803, \$18.00.

Twenty inch Shirley also with no complexion cracks, but again well mended toes; original clothes — she's lovely. No. A804, \$18.00.

Eighteen inch Shirley whose face has been re-finished over a crack, but it is well done; body perfect and clothes original. No. A806, \$11.00

Twelve-and-one-half inch small and choice little Shirley, all in excellent condition No. A479, \$17.50. We think, with the flood of new plastic Shirley Temple dolls, these few First Editions, so to speak, will be better collector items than ever.

And some small fry "cheep, cheep" that are still collector items for the not-too-far advanced.

Nine inch bisque and composition with his brown eyed head marked "S.F.B.J. Paris," Pierre is gray suited like a man; circa 1900, No. A728, \$15.00.

Same size and markings "M'selle" — her eyes still sleep. These are just ordinary quality bisque, but they are jointed, at wrists, elbows and knees as well as at shoulders, hips and neck. She wears rather becoming old dress and cap; No. A745, \$15.00.

Eight inch German bisque and composition, a "doll's doll" type with blue glass eyes, also dates around 1900, in pink and white wide ribbon frock, all perfect. No. A795, \$6.50.

The fourth composition bodied bisque headed one, 6¼ inches tall, has painted eyes and very well modeled features; wears original clown-looking suit and such a tall hat that we called him "Little Teddy Lewis." No. A794, \$6.50.

Only 2½ inch, all bisque fat little toddler with a bit of brown bobbed wig, ¾ inch long jointed arms and — he goes to sleep! Wish we had a hundred like him, but — this one only, No. A754, \$7.50.

Gay, carnival type darkey dolls, with bead eyes and embroidered features on black stockinette faces are otherwise a riot of color.

Ten inch Mr. Bones' trousers are pumpkin yellow and red stripe, his vest golden, tailcoat blue, hat-band gilt, all knitted looking. No. A807, \$5.00.

Eight inch Minstrel Boy wears a lemon yellow knitted hat; both his red jacket and blue and white trousers are solidly bedecked with tiny French knot tufting—red cambric shoes. They are really something! Boy, No. A808, \$5.00.

MORE NAME CALLIN'

Ruth M. Mills writes—"I still have one not listed in D.T., 'My Dearie', with bisque head. She is 22 inches tall, has beautiful brown glass eyes, dimpled chin and composition jointed body. Head has no other marking on it except 'Germany'."

AND A DOLL FOR REMEMBRANCE

And what is wrong, pray, with a dear introspective elderly lady's living a bit in the past? Her treasure chests of memory may be more richly filled than were her dowery stores of long ago.

SEW-SEW

Along with her Doll Talk renewal came the following notes from Lucile Clay, long of West Virginia, but now of "Winter Haven."

"I have two 'hints' for Doll Talkers who dress their own dolls, if you would care to pass them on. Perhaps some of them have already discovered them, but I did figure them out myself. (1) Those little individual powder pads that come packed quite a number to the box, make excellent shoulder pads for 18 inch dolls, either folded in the center for a thick shoulder pad, or cut through the center for a thin one. (2) A needle-point needle makes an excellent bodkin for pulling the round hat elastic through a narrow casing."

TONIC FOR WOODEN LEGS

At a one-afternoon-stand in Lincoln of Kimport Dolls and folk, we met ever so many nice Nebraskans. A scrap paper notation reminds me that Beulah Besch volunteered the information that when she had to carve (or whittle!) some missing wooden digits for an antique doll, she used super easy balsa. Not as authentic as pine, but Mrs. Besch said when lacquered with "Deft" and later rubbed down with newsprint paper, it "surely does give a good old effect."

DOLL TALK

Editor, Ruby Short McKim

A magazine in miniature, published for doll enthusiasts. Issued about every eight weeks.

Subscription is \$1.00 for two years.

Address:

KIMPORT DOLLS
Independence, Mo.

IMPORTANT NATIONAL CONVENTION

The eyes of many doll collectors are already turned to New York City where the Ninth Annual Convention of the United Federation of Doll Clubs, Inc. will be held at the Plaza Hotel, August 13 through the 17, 1958.

The Knickerbocker Doll and Hobby Club, Inc. will be the hostess group and from the committees now announced and the program already set up, we know that they will vie well with the superb hospitality of previous convention cities.

Mrs. Sidney (Virginia) Olsen, and her officers have put in a busy year strengthening and adding member clubs, all of which will be in evidence at the New York meeting.

As a long time member-at-large, I, and all of us here at Kimport, certainly wish the Federation every success. We are sorry that commitments on the Pacific Coast will allow us to be present in spirit only.

—Ruby Short McKim



ENGLISH HISTORIC COSTUME PAINTING BOOKS

Trust the English printers to do any subject from "Painting Books for Children" up to elaborately illustrated "Doll Houses for Collectors," artistically and correctly! This time we are offering the painting books and not to children either, but to doll connoisseurs who want their history characters authentic, and their costumes true to the last bow-knot!

This is a fascinating set of fifteen, 36-page books, size 6 x 9. Each page has a character or pair in outline true to their particular English period. A two page color key comes with each book. Originally intended for tinting the figures, but for collectors, just part of the valuable costume information needed in identifying or dressing historic English dolls.

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| No. 1 Saxon Period | 450—1066 |
| No. 2 Norman Period | 1066—1154 |
| No. 3 Henry II-Edward I | 1154—1307 |
| No. 4 Edward II-Henry VI | 1307—1461 |
| No. 5 Edward IV-Mary | 1461—1558 |
| No. 6 Elizabeth and James I | 1558—1625 |
| No. 7 Charles I and the Commonwealth | 1625—1660 |
| No. 8 Charles II-William and Mary | 1660—1702 |
| No. 9 Anne-George II | 1702—1760 |
| No. 10 George III: Part 1 | 1760—1789 |

- No. 11 George III: Part II
1789—1820
- No. 12 George IV-William IV
1820—1837
- No. 13 Victoria: Part I 1837—1870
- No. 14 Victoria: Part II 1870—1901
- No. 15 Edward VII-George V
1901—1914
- Complete Set of 15 Books\$7.50.

MORE DOLL TALK

Along with his order for the new Doll Collectors Manual, Mr. Frank Szopo, Jr., of Michigan writes on his own Allen Park Doll Hospital stationery. "I have used the D.C.A. Manuals now for many years. There are only a few men in doll collecting and fewer still who lecture, so I am proud to be one of them. Thanks, Kimport, for your past support. Doll Talk is one of the finest little books anyone can read."

CONCERNING US AND OUR DOLLS

"Thought you might enjoy this article that was read to us by one of the members when talking on Fashions. It is called 'Nine Ages of Dress.'

1. Indecent—when it is 10 years before its time.
2. Daring—when it is one year before its time.
3. Chic—at the present time.
4. Dowdy—when it is two years after its time.
5. Hideous—20 years after.
6. Quaint—30 years after.
7. Amusing—50 years after.
8. Romantic—100 years after.
9. Beautiful—200 years after its time.

How about that; it sure is true."

—Ruth Meyer

CORRESPONDENCE CLIPPINGS

"It is difficult for a native of New Orleans not to follow down the various Avenues of Antiques. I have personally succumbed to several. I am a collector of Godey books and being so familiar with them I am tempted to say that your little 'Doll Talk' has ingratiated itself into the hearts of its readers of this present generation, just as Godey of the past! But the zenith is my extreme interest in old Bisque dolls. In them are combined my deep love for the little child (as a Nursery School teacher) with my ardent interest in Antiquity."

—Mrs. Melvin Stigge, La.

"Every word of your 'Foreword' in the Doll Collectors Manual is a true picture of some one or something associated with one's past experiences; again, I say, Congratulations!"

—Ora Jane Caise, Kentucky

"It's been all of eight years since I have even seen a Doll Talk — (many good reasons) — so please get me back to the present, via Kimport!" —Charlotte Chase, Penna.

"My new mirror back cabinets with the drawers and cupboard underneath are working out fine. I am enjoying re-arranging my dolls, so please send more of the stands."

—Ruby P. Wadhams, Conn.

"Am enclosing a dollar for two years of Doll Talk. What a bargain — you can't hardly get them no more!"

—Glenna Llewellyn, Calif.

"The Chinese silk figure, Lady with a Crane, has been very much admired. She is perfect for framing." —Dorothy Bovaird, N. H.

"I love my Kimport Dolls so much that I can't wait to finish one club of Doll of the Month before I am tremendously interested in another!"

—Lila Stark, Calif.

"Tiny Madeira is indeed a perfect little doll, a joy to give and I'm sure a joy for any little girl to receive. Thank you for your prompt and business-like handling of the small order."

—Mrs. A. J. Wiede, Minn.

"The charming geisha girls had a place beside the footmen in my Japanese festival set, and were duly admired by the 130 some people who came last week for my doll open house."

—Mrs. R. G. Bone, Illinois

"I presume the use of various size freezer plastic bags to protect dolls (especially when I pack them to show my groups) is not new to you, but they are both excellent and inexpensive."

—Cornelia Christopher, N. J.

DOLL COLLECTORS GUILD

Evelyn Hohwiesner, publicity chairman, sent in the following roster of new officers for their Doll Collectors Guild. This is a group of some forty women in the greater N. Y. area, who since 1950 have been organized for both social and philanthropic purposes.

Installed by Mrs. Charles Moeser, May 10th, at the Belmont-Plaza Hotel, were the following: President, Mrs. I. Cornelius Van Sise; Vice-President, Mrs. Richard Walsh; Treasurer, Mrs. Howard Russell; Secretary, Mrs. Marshall W. Hollingsworth; Historian, Mrs. Lawrence Griger.

THEY WERE PUPPET SHOWS

"I earned enough money putting on shows at Christmas to buy a tape recorder for a blind lady. Although she is handicapped herself, she delights in going to the school for handicapped children to tell them folktales and legends of many lands. Now I can make tapes for her and she can play them back until she learns the stories. It has opened up a whole new world for her, and the children, too."

—Robertta G. Mack, Calif.

BIBLIOGRAPHY ON BRU

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|---|------------------------|
| * "Old Dolls" by Eleanor St. George, | Pages 86-89-162 |
| * "Dolls of Yesterday" by Eleanor St. George | Pages 118-119 |
| "Dolls" by Esther Singleton | Page 59 |
| "Your Dolls and Mine" by Janet Johl | Pages 276-278 |
| "More About Dolls" by Janet Johl | Pages 153-264-266 |
| * "Doll of Three Centuries" by Eleanor St. George | Pages 26-38 |
| "Dolls, Guide For Collectors" by C. Fawcett, | Pages 60-65-56-114-118 |
| "Spinning Wheel" Article by Luella Hart, | August 1957 |

Books marked with (*) may be purchased from Kimport Dolls.

DOLL PRIMER: WHAT DOLL IS MORE WANTED THAN A BRU?

Every serious collector aspires to own a Bru, and since the surviving dolls are limited in number, the prices have bid up accordingly.

The geneology of dolls is often a tangled web, and their Golden Age in France, 1840-1900, has a distinguished roster of names with Jumeau and Bru well at the top. In the same field there were such contemporary makers as Fr. Greffier, Steiner, Belton, Gautier and Bruilet, to mention only a few. No doubt this artistic competition inspired Bru to create his beautiful dolls, and through ninety years the name has consistently gained lustre.

M. Anton Bru of Paris, took out his first doll patent in 1867, and strangely enough it was for a two faced doll. In 1872 he patented a multifaced doll. What collector's items they would now be! At the same time he was producing beautiful bisque dolls, shoulder heads with swivel necks, in a variety of sizes, incising the name B R U in vertical position on the shoulders. The dolls were kid-bodied in the style of the day, but he was the first to experiment with wooden bodies and brought them to perfection, though using them rarely or only wood in the arms and legs. The Bru dolls had heavier features and darker coloring than the Jumeau and can thus be distinguished even without the letters BRU.

The Franco-German War of 1870 disrupted, though it did not destroy, the French doll industry. Bru never had used any German heads or parts as most companies, including Jumeau, sometimes did. He did not suffer from the French hatred of anything German, even dolls, much like our war prejudices against German and Japanese goods not long ago. About this time his son seems to have taken over and in 1879 Bru Jeune, took out a patent on a bisque headed doll, described as having life-like, well proportioned lower arms and hands. Thenceforth the trade mark was Bru Jeune or Jne. — evidently Junior.

Using a money comparison of volume, at the height of the Bru success, the sales were running 200,000 francs a year against a million francs for Jumeau,—and those were not the fractional francs of today. Sometime later the family business was sold to an industrialist, Paul Girard, and in 1891 he took a patent on Bebe Bru, as shown in Louella Hart's list of French patents. In 1899 Girard merged the Bru line with Bebe Eden and Jumeau to form the Societe Francaise Bebes et Juets, or S. F. B. J., which later absorbed most of the doll companies of France.

In the big combination, the Bru line was not promoted and by 1930 it disappeared from the company letterheads and dolls alike. Even the original molds were lost.

A few of the survivors, ex-patriates now in America, have had their aristocratic honor restored, and they are among the elite of doll-dom. What a privilege to give them sanctuary!

KIMPORT DOLLS, P. O. BOX 495
INDEPENDENCE, MO.